Amendments to the Claims

1.-18. (cancelled)

19.   (currently amended) A scalable system for collaborative computing comprising:

a web zone for allowing a plurality of client computers to access the scalable system via a global-area network, the web zone having at least one web server;

a meeting zone for supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers, the meeting zone having a meeting manager, a process manager, a plurality of collaborative servers, and a plurality of application servers, wherein:

the meeting manager is operable to manage the on-line conference in the meeting zone;

the process manager is operable to launch the collaborative servers;

each collaborative server is operable to host at least a portion of the on-line conference;

each application server is operable to support at least one service for the on-line conference; and

wherein the meeting manager is operable to receive a request to join the on-line conference from a client computer, and to select at least one of the

collaboration servers and the application servers based on respective processing loads of the collaborative servers and the application servers, to determine whether a new collaborative server is needed to maintain a quality of service for the meeting zone, and to send a request to the process manager to launch the new collaborative server if the meeting manager determines that the new collaborative server is needed.

20. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 19 wherein each collaborative server and each application server comprises a respective logical server.

21. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 20 wherein the process manager is operable for monitoring each logical server.

22. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 20 wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager for supporting communication among the logical servers.

23. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to maintain status information for the meeting zone.

24. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 19 wherein the at least one service for the on-line conference comprises one of document viewing, file sharing, video, voice over IP, telephony, polling, chat, and application sharing.

25. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to manage all the collaborative servers and the application servers in the meeting zone.

26. (previously presented) The scalable system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to determine whether a predetermined number of authorized conference participates has been exceeded.

27. (currently amended) A method for collaborative computing in a scalable system having a web zone and a meeting zone, wherein the meeting zone has a meeting manager, a plurality of collaboration servers, and a plurality of application servers, the method comprising:

at a web zone allowing a plurality of client computers to access the scalable system via a global-area network;

at the meeting zone supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers;

at the meeting zone receiving a request to join the on-line conference from a client computer; and

selecting at least one of the collaboration servers and the application

servers based on respective processing loads of the collaboration servers and

the application servers;

at the meeting manager determining whether a new collaboration server is

needed to maintain a quality of service for the meeting zone; and

launching the new collaboration server if the meeting manager determines

that the new collaboration server is needed.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein supporting the

on-line conference comprises hosting the on-line conference in the meeting zone.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein supporting the

on-line conference comprises managing the on-line conference in the meeting zone.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein supporting the

on-line conference comprises supporting at least one service for the on-line conference.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 comprising maintaining

status information for the meeting zone.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 comprising determining

whether a predetermined number of authorized conference participants has been

exceeded.

33.　(new)　The scalable system of claim 19 wherein each of the collaborative server is operable to send a traffic capacity of the respective collaborative server to the meeting manager.